

## NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

August 19, 2013

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, August 19, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, and William Padien. Christopher Willi was not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 15, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **Reports**

William Padien reported that he walked around the school and thinks the custodians are doing a great job getting it ready for the new school year.

Mr. Hicks stated that because last year's budget was able to cover the benefits for the two retirees, he has been reviewing the capital projects. Although the budget has not been audited, it has turned out better than we first thought it would and approximately \$84,000 is available for the capital items. He reminded the committee that the town is setting aside money to repair the original building façade and we are setting aside money to fix the rubber membrane roof. Other projects include the replacement of the lift, security upgrades (replace front entry and all door locks), improve drainage around the playground, and decrease water intrusion in lower elementary level. Committee members agreed with Mr. Hicks that these projects should be addressed.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo along with a summary of education related legislation passed this year. He brought several to the School Committee's attention, including an annual review of the school safety plans by the School Committee; a required policy for post-secondary enrollment of high school students; changes in the fire, security, and safety drills; updated CPR requirements; and RIDE was asked by the legislature to delay the graduation test requirement.

Mr. Hicks stated that the unaudited standing of accounts as of June 30, 2013, was refined from last month and currently shows that \$37,800 has been unexpended, but this may change with the audit. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the unaudited finance report through June 30, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **New Business**

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Katie Tarpey as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0. Ms Tarpey will be compensated at the rate of \$15.45 per hour.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Kelsey McElroy as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0. Ms McElroy will be compensated at the rate of \$15.45 per hour.

Mr. Hicks drafted a letter regarding the need for a cable to the mainland that would cover not only electricity needs but bandwidth and data demands. He explained that the school has two T-1 connections and RIDE has increased this to three to meet the emerging needs. However, we are essentially operating on only one T-1 connection, which falls far short of the demands of online assessment and learning that would keep our educational program current. It was stated that the medical center and town hall are also restricted because of the bandwidth available on Block Island. It was suggested that the first copy of the letter be sent to the Town Council, but it would eventually go to Deepwater, RIDE, Governor Chaffee, and our legislative representatives. Mr. Hicks will work on a resolution with the same information included.

### **Calendar of Events**

The annual back to school breakfast will be held at the 1661 Inn at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 7:53 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: September 16, 2013